

*Lane County Historical Society Scholarship Application*

*"I feel that history is in many ways the most important of all subjects because it is about everything and because it's about who we are and how we came to be the way we are."*

-- David McCullough

*"Of all our studies, history is best qualified to reward our research. And when you see that you've got problems, all you have to do is examine the historic method used all over the world by others who have problems similar to yours. And once you see how they got theirs straight, then you know how you can get yours straight."*

-- Malcolm X

History to a people, Malcolm X observed, is like memory to a person. If trauma, or the oppressors' strategic historical omission, erases or rewrites history to glorify the hunter, what of the lion and the elephant stories?

The Lane County Historical Society (LCHS) seeks to preserve, stimulate interest in, and disseminate information about the history of Lane County, Oregon. Because we recognize that the current pandemic is making it hard for many of our students to continue their studies, we are pleased to offer our inaugural LCHS Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000, to be used exclusively for tuition.

LCHS encourages students to view the pandemic as an opportunity to learn to think historically:

- Previous global pandemics have reshaped our societies, yet left predictable disparities, and prejudices, in place
- How has this current pandemic altered the course of your life, and how has it inspired your ability to adapt and show resilience in preparation for the next pandemic?
- Are there historical figures whose shoulders you wish to stand upon to further their past, and your future, work?

**Eligibility**

- Strong community involvement and interest in history
- Graduating from a Lane County high school or GED program in 2021
- Acceptance in a post-secondary education college or university

**Application requirements**

- Completed application
- Official high school/GED transcript(s)
- Two letters of reference in sealed envelopes/emails directly from that individual. One must be from a previous/current instructor. Do not send a reference from a friend or family member.
- Pick two of the four short essay topics described in prompts below

**Due date/Mailing information**

- Deadline: Monday, May 10, 2021
- Mail completed application to: Lane County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5407, Eugene, OR 97405, Attn: Trevor Ackerman
- Direct queries to Bob Hart, LCHS Executive Director (director@lchm.org)

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Professional presentation of application
- Strong community involvement
- Accepted to post-secondary college/university
- Quality of the two essays submitted
- Demonstrates understanding of history

**Application****Contact Information**

Name:

Mailing address (Street, Community, Zip):

Email:

Phone number:

Name of High School/GED program from which you will graduate:

Name of post-secondary college/university you are attending in the fall:

Proof of acceptance and enrollment in post-secondary college/university

Student ID number

Financial Office address of post-secondary college/university

## **Essay Prompts**

- Describe your community involvement and how it has impacted you, your professional goals, and made a difference in this historical moment. 250 - 500 words
- Since LCHS is awarding this scholarship, we want to understand why history is important to you. Whether you have absorbed history through formal or informal study, genealogy, travel, or participation in civic activities, please tell us how history has influenced your life. 250 - 500 words
- The pandemic is only one of the crises our nation and the world currently face. Can the study of history help inform us as to how to better face other issues such as climate change, governmental gridlock, or the emergence of widespread “fake news?” 250-500 words.
- Pick a deceased historical figure and explain how their attributes and/or ideas would, if implemented today, make the world a better place. 250-500 words.